

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 614 – SB 872

March 23, 2009

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005034):** Deletes the language of the original bill. Delays enactment of the provisions of Public Chapter 1108 of the Public Acts of 2008 (Tennessee Voter Confidence Act) until no later than the general election of 2012.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Other Fiscal Impact – Prevents the expenditure of Federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds of \$25,000,000 which were to be used to purchase county voting systems that provided voter-verified paper ballots of the voter's vote as required by the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act.

Local Expenditures – Cost Avoidance –  
Exceeds \$11,000,000/Every Two Years

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Revenue – Exceeds \$1,000,000/One- Time/  
Federal HAVA Funds

Other Fiscal Impact – Delays up to two years the expenditure of Federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds of \$25,000,000 to purchase county voting systems which provide voter-verified paper ballots of the voter's vote. Delays up to two years, costs exceeding \$11,000,000 in local government expenditures every two years.

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Implementation of the provisions of Public Chapter 1108 of the Public Acts of 2008 will be delayed until no later than the general election of 2012.

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- According to the State Coordinator of Elections, the implementation of the optical scan voting system to replace the voting systems in 93 Tennessee counties that now use Direct Recording Electronic Voting machines (DREs) will result in a one-time increase in federal expenditures of approximately \$25,000,000.
- Two counties, Pickett and Hamilton, currently have optical scan machines.
- There are approximately 2,500 precincts in Tennessee.
- Each precinct would need at least one scanner and one marking device for voters with disabilities. Scanners and marking devices would cost approximately \$5,000 each. ( $\$5,000 \times 2 \text{ devices} = \$10,000 \text{ each precinct} \times 2,500 \text{ precincts} = \$25,000,000 \text{ statewide}$ ).
- The cost to local government to change each county from a DRE voting system to a precinct-based optical scanner voting system, and the cost to conduct elections using the new system is estimated to be in excess of \$11,000,000 every two years.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, at least \$1,000,000 in one-time interest earnings will be earned and credited to the Federal HAVA Funds by delaying the implementation of Public Chapter 1108.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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